



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION "RFI"

Date: October 29, 2008

Title: Commonwealth Rx Initiative

Issuing / Using Entity: Productivity Investment Fund
c/o Aneesh Chopra, Secretary of Technology
1111 East Broad St
Richmond, VA 23219

I. INTRODUCTION

The Secretaries of Health and Human Resources and Technology and the Productivity Investment Fund are seeking Statements of Interest from public or private entities offering improvements to the Commonwealth's pharmaceutical purchasing and delivery network. The Commonwealth is seeking Statement of Interest (SOI) from private entities that will target operational efficiencies in state managed pharmacies and supply chain optimization to focus on prescription pricing and formulary compliance.

The Commonwealth will consider responses to this Request for Information (RFI) and determine funding and next steps based on availability and quality of proposals. Project proposals should address these objectives:

- 1) *Operational Efficiencies:* Improve pharmacy operations across multiple Commonwealth agencies that require no or very minimal changes to the existing infrastructure.
- 2) *Supply Chain Optimization:* Facilitate search and retrieve data from existing databases in order to empower buyers to make more efficient, knowledgeable and informed decisions.

It should be noted that there will be a campaign to promote adoption of electronic prescribing among providers and pharmacies in the Commonwealth during 2009. If relevant, responses should include any potential benefit from collaboration between the items above and an independent effort in e-prescribing.

II. BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth of Virginia has done some initial research regarding pharmaceutical spending across numerous agencies including Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Human Resource Management, Department of Health, Department of Medical Assistance Services, and Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation Substance Abuse Services. This research has shown that there is significant variability not only in pricing of the pharmaceuticals, but also in how the agencies manage their various pharmaceutical programs. The Commonwealth is particularly interested in maximizing 340B pricing across all agencies, consolidating management of pharmaceuticals across all the agencies, and e-prescribing initiatives. In addition, the Commonwealth would be interested in developing a single formulary across all agencies where applicable and instituting practices that would provide improved management to the formulary. The Commonwealth believes that by better managing the various pharmaceutical lines and services across all of the agencies, the total healthcare spend by the Commonwealth can be reduced.

III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONSES

Respondents should submit a concise SOI that should include:

- 1) A brief statement of interest in pursuing the project for improving pharmaceutical management across the Commonwealth
- 2) An outline of the proposed structure of the research to be conducted and a brief description of how it will solve the need presented by this RFI
- 3) A summary of topics or issues that will arise upon the implementation of this proposal not identified by the RFI, as well as input on how to respond to those topics or issues

Staff will also conduct a dialogue with respondents as well as seek out more information in support of the response. As part of the dialogue process suggestions for improving responses may be given to respondents by staff. Updated responses will be accepted up until the deadline. Therefore, early responses are encouraged.

SOI's shall be returned by 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, Friday, November 14th, 2008, by mail or electronically. Electronic responses should be addressed to: tristen.peggram@governor.virginia.gov. Include **Commonwealth Rx** in the subject line. Non-electronic responses will also be accepted. Please send to:

Commonwealth of Virginia
c/o Aneesh Chopra
1111 East Broad St
Richmond, VA 23219

Electronic inquiries are preferred at tristen.peggram@governor.virginia.gov, however, respondents may also call 804-692-2556 for additional information.

IV. THE OFFICE'S RIGHTS RESERVED

The Secretaries reserve all rights available to them by Federal and State law. Moreover respondents to this Commonwealth Rx RFI are hereby notified that all information, documentation, and any specific content or approaches included in RFI responses may be used in future solicitations. Therefore, do not submit any copyrighted, proprietary or confidential information.

Ownership of all data, materials, and documentation originated and submitted pursuant to this RFI, shall belong exclusively to the Commonwealth of Virginia and shall be subject to public inspection in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Under no circumstances shall the Commonwealth, the Governor's Office, the Secretaries, or the Productivity Investment Fund be liable for, or reimburse, the costs incurred by respondents.